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Letter dated 30 April 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to my letter dated 27 April 1998 (A/52/877-S/1998/348), I have the honour to draw you attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, which were recorded on 28 and 29 April 1998.

On those two days, eight Turkish military planes entered the Nicosia flight information region in violation of international air traffic regulations: two F-16 on 28 April 1998 between 1939 and 2000 hours, and on 29 April 1998, two F-16 between 0900 and 0932 hours, two RF-4 between 1153 and 1220 hours and two F-16 between 1451 and 1517 hours. Four of those aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus flying above and along the area of Morphou, Kyrenia and the Cape of Apostle Andreas.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in complete disregard of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement and violate international air traffic rules. It should be noted that the recently intensified provocative Turkish violations come at a time of renewed efforts aimed at breaking the impasse in the intercommunal talks, and create doubts about Turkish political will for the success of those efforts.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly against these new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotiros ZACKHEOS
Ambassador, Permanent Representative